

Legal Notice
Opportunity to Object to the Draft Decision Regarding
The St. Francis National Forest Ecosystem Restoration Project
USDA Forest Service, R8
Ozark-St. Francis National Forests
St. Francis Ranger District
Lee and Phillips Counties, AR

The Sylamore-St. Francis Ranger District of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests has prepared an environmental assessment (EA), draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) for the St. Francis National Forest Ecosystem Restoration Project. The Draft DN/FONSI approves what was analyzed in the EA as the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action involves mechanical, manual, chemical and prescribed burning treatments as well as connected actions necessary to implement those treatments on the National Forest System (NFS) lands of the St. Francis National Forest (approximately 22,675 total acres) over a 10-year timeframe. Treatments will be prescribed following completion of required inventory and survey work. Adaptive management components are included to ensure oak regeneration is established and treatments for invasive plant species are effective. The Proposed Action also includes administrative actions to more closely align classifications of seed collection areas and some roads in Ozark-St. Francis National Forests' databases with levels or types of actual use, and to eliminate the need to maintain or enlarge existing wildlife openings within one-half mile of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

The proposed project or activity is subject to the pre-decisional objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

The EA and draft DN/FONSI are available on-line at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=36532>. These documents are also available for review at the St. Francis District Office in Marianna, AR and the Sylamore Ranger District Office in Mountain View, AR. Additional information regarding this project or activity can be obtained from: Jan Franks, District NEPA Coordinator, Sylamore Ranger District, 1001 East Main St, Mountain View, AR 72560; 870-269-3228 x 3234.

How to Object and Timeframe

The opportunity to object ends 45 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in *The Helena World*, the newspaper of record. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period, unless

based on new information arising after designated comment opportunities. Opportunities for public comment on this EA include during scoping and the 30-day comment period held in July and August of 2019.

Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer.

At a minimum, the objection must include the following:

- List the name, address, and if possible, a telephone number of the objector;
- Provide a signature or other verification of authorship (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);
- Identify the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection;
- Provide the name of the project being objected to, the name and title of the responsible official, and the name of the National Forest(s) and/or ranger district on which the project is located;
- A statement of the issues and/or the parts of the project to which the objection applies;
- If applicable, a statement explaining how the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies; and supporting reasons; and
- A statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment.

Written objections, including attachments, **must** be filed with: Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, ATTN: Objections Reviewing Officer, 605 West Main St., Russellville, AR 72801; fax 479- 964-7518, office 479-964-7200. The business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to ozarkobjection@usda.gov . Objections should **not** be filed with the responsible official at the district offices. Please state "St. Francis National Forest Ecosystem Restoration Project" in the subject line when providing electronic objections, or on the envelope when replying by mail.

Objections received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who object, will be considered part of the public record on these proposed actions and will be available for public inspection during and after the objection process. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

This legal notice was published on October 9, 2019 on page 7 of *The Helena World*, the newspaper of record.